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2 CU students vow to appeal if they're punished for protest

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BOULDER — Two University of Colorado graduate students vowed yesterday to appeal any disciplinary action school officials might take against them for participating in a November protest against CIA campus recruiters.

Hank Brusselback, 42, and Cindy Pieropan, 24, were ordered to appear yesterday in front of William D. Schaefer, coordinator of the office of student conduct. During the closed meeting, they were asked to explain their actions Nov. 18 when 220 people tried to stage citizens' arrests of the government recruiters.

They will learn later this week how Schaefer plans to discipline them for allegedly exceeding student conduct regulations when protesting the CIA campus recruitment.

Schaefer can either dismiss the charge of "prohibited entry and use of university facilities at Willard Hall on the Boulder campus," give the students a warning or reprimand, place them on academic probation, suspend them or expel them.

Pieropan said Schaefer indicated suspension or expulsion are unlikely, but their attorney, George A. Johnson, said even a warning would be appealed.

"We're not content with any discipline," he said. "We will take this to a higher level and have plans to subpoena (CU President Gordon

Gee) to Cindy's trial."

Pieropan is one of four protesters who will be tried in Boulder County Court in May on charges of attempted trespass.

Brusselback and Pieropan scaled a wall in an attempt to gain access to the building where the CIA representatives were conducting interviews. Pieropan also crawled through a window at Willard Hall.

Brusselback, Pieropan and Johnson spent about 45 minutes in Schaefer's office where they said they tried to convince the coordinator that he could not separate the morality of the issue from school regulations.

"Schaefer said even if he had some morality concerns, it was irrelevant to his job," Brusselback said. "He indicated the president and chancellors had made up their minds about this."

Brusselback and Pieropan accused Schaefer of selective enforcement of campus regulations, an allegation he denied.

"We were called in separately, even though more than 200 people were arrested," Brusselback said. "That seems like harassment, an attempt to squelch any further action on our part."

"I can only deal with students," Schaefer said. "I don't know how many of the 210 were students, but through watching videotapes (of the protests), I identified some of those enrolled and will be talking with all of those who have gone beyond the negotiated bounds of the protest."